GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3684
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
DECONTROL OF POTASH
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decontrol of potash has affected the availability thereof to the farmers;

(b) whether there is shortage of potash fertiliser in the country;

(c) whether there is also decline in the consumption of potash during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The requirement of potash in the country is mainly met though Muriate of Potash (MOP). MOP being decontrolled and decanalised, its availability is dependent on market forces of demand and supply. The entire quantity of MOP required for consumption is imported, as there is no known commercially viable source of potash in the country. However, the availability of MOP in the country during the last three years was satisfactory and sufficient to support the sales.

(c), (d) & (e): The table below gives the consumption of potash (K) in the country during the last three years:

(lakh MTs)

Year	Consumption of potash (K)
1999-2000	16.78
2000-01	15.67
2001-02 (Estimated)	17.07

The decline in the consumption of potash during the year 2000-01 was on account of drought like conditions that prevailed in some parts of the country during that year. There was decline in consumption of Nitrogen (N) and Phosphate (P) also in 2000-01.